

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND  
MICHAEL ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 30, 2004

**AMENDMENT TO ITEM 36**

On November 3, 2004, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Departments of Health Services and Mental Health to assess the factors leading to increased demands for psychiatric emergency services and to immediately develop a plan to alleviate the overcrowding of psychiatric emergency departments. While acknowledging the many months of preparation, involvement of stakeholder groups and other efforts that have gone into the development of the Plan for Relief of County Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Services, the plan before the Board does not address the psychiatric emergency needs of residents on a countywide basis, especially in the area of SPA 2. Olive View Medical Center consistently encounters excess emergency psychiatric demands. The Plan as proposed would send emergency psychiatric patients from county hospitals to Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center. It is very unlikely, due to the distances involved, that any psychiatric emergency patient at Olive View will ever be transported to Augustus F. Hawkins for urgent care or 23 hour stabilization.

Furthermore, among the 58.5 FTEs and other expenditures budgeted to this new, directly operated \$5 million program, no funds or positions are allocated to Olive

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View despite the fact that the emergency psychiatric caseload at Olive View is comparable to that of other county hospitals. In addition, there is little assurance that a plan will be developed in the near future for SPA 2 after the Augustus Hawkins program is evaluated, unless this matter is specifically addressed by the Board.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE,** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Directors of Health Services and Mental Health to report back to the Board in sixty days with a plan, budget, and timeline for a program at Olive View Medical Center that addresses the mental health needs of area residents. This plan should be similar to the proposed plan for Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center while reflecting a program model appropriate for the need in SPA 2, including identified space, staff, and referral connections with community based agencies.